4th August 1966] [Sri V. Ramaiah]

deficit of 66 per cent of rainfall at Mercara during the current South-west monsoon period compared to normal. It was considered that the reservoir may be opened as soon as the monsoon sets in actively at Mercara and there are prospects of continuous flow of 25,000 cusecs per day into the Mettur Reservoir. There was a fairly satisfactory spell of rainfall in Mercara in the second fort-night of July, and flows adequate enough for release to start culti-vation were anticipated. The Director of Agriculture also reported that most of the Delta farmers are keen on raising Kuruvai paddy this year, even if water reached the Delta by 25th July. In view of the improvement in the inflows into the Mettur Reservoir indi-cated at the time and anticipating intensification of the monsoon in Mercara and other catchment areas, the reservoir was opened for irrigation at 6 p.m. on the 21st July 1966.

As a measure of incentive to the farmers to maximise cultiva-tion and production of Kuruvai, the Government have announced that a bonus of Rs. 3 per quintal of paddy shall be given to all grains delivered for procurement out of the forthcoming Kuruvai crop in Cauvery Delta in the districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli and South Arcot.

The storage position is under constant review by the Govern-ment, and irrigation regulation is being done carefully with the available storage and inflows to supply the optimum necessary for the cultivation operations, consistently, with an eye on avoiding wastage. The concerned departments have also been advised to be vigilant to implement regulations similar to those adopted in the last two years of subnormal monsoon conditions, should it be necessary.

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Amendment Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the President has given his sanction under Article 304 of the Consti-tution for the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Amendment Bill, 1966.

I have also to announce to the House that the Governor has given his recommendation for the introduction in the Madras Legislative Assembly of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Amendment Bill, 1966.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Amendment Bill, 1966.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg for leave to introduce the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Amendment Bill, 1966.